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UB Law Wins First Place in National Ethics Trial Competition

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Law School Report

Moot Court and Mock Trials

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nizes intramural competitions based in domestic law.

Developed in honor of the former Chief Justice of the New York State Court of Appeals – and the most widely participated competition the school offers – the **Charles S. Desmond Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition** allows students to argue a case currently before the United States Supreme Court. This year participants presented *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education*, a case with 14th Amendment implications that brings up many of the issues addressed in the 2003 case *Grutter v. Bollinger*. Surviving 60 other competitors, Jeff Gleason '08 and Marissa Coheley '08 were named 2006's overall winners. Runners up were James Cole '07 and Jennifer Howland '07.

Hannah Moore '07, 2006-2007 Buffalo moot court board president said of the competition, "We had a large number of competitors this year – 28 teams – and many exciting rounds. The competitors showed talent in both brief writing and speaking, and were able to showcase those talents thanks to the help of the many participating judges."

The final Desmond round was judged by H. Kenneth Schroeder Jr., Federal Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York; Nancy E. Smith, Justice of the New York Supreme Court for the Seventh Judicial District; George Bundy Smith, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals; and Leslie G. Foschio, Federal Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York.

Also falling under the Buffalo moot court board's aegis and named for Albert R. Mugel '41, a former UB Law professor and co-founder of the Buffalo

UB Law wins first place in first national ethics trial competition

University at Buffalo Law School's national trial team of Sara Wesley, John Menna, Janine Sprague and David Hoffman, coached by alumni Diane Lavallee '83 and Michael P. Daumen '74, took first place in the first annual National Ethics Trial Competition hosted by Pacific/McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento California on March 16-19, 2006. Sara Wesley received top honors as best overall advocate.

Fourteen teams (Georgetown, UC Davis, University of Georgia, Fordham, Stetson, Pacific-McGeorge, Chicago-Kent, Pepperdine, Denver, Connecticut, South Texas, Houston, Temple and UB) competed. UB defeated Fordham, U. Conn, and S. Texas before winning a unanimous decision against Pacific McGeorge (the host team) in the finals.

The case was one of legal mal-

practice in which the plaintiff, a large hotel chain, alleged that their former attorney negligently represented their interests in defending against a wrongful death action in which a hotel patron had been murdered.

This competition was an invitational that included some of the top trial programs in the country. According to Hon. Thomas P. Franczyk, a Buffalo City Court judge who oversees the trial advocacy program at UB Law, "Stetson is one of the best in the country as is Temple; they won the Buffalo-Niagara in 2004. Chicago Kent is also one of the best. All of the others are top notch as well. Of course, UB, in my humble and unbiased opinion, is right up there."

"This is the third competition that was won by the Wesley, Sprague, Menna trio, this time with the help of solid newcomer David Hoffman," said Franczyk."

firm Jaeckle, Fleischmann, & Mugel, the **Mugel National Tax Competition** invites students from around the nation to debate a problem involving a current issue in tax. Having won UB's intramural competition last fall, Rachel Hezel '07, Joshua Lawrence '07, Daniel Kuhn '08 and Ray Walter '07 will represent the school in the nationwide competition hosted by UB this spring.

Titled after the drafter of the Model Penal Code, UB also independently hosts the **Wechsler Criminal Moot Court Competition**, the only national moot court competition in the United States to focus on topics in substantive criminal law. Problems address the constitutionality and interpretation of federal and state criminal statutes as

well as general issues in the doctrine of federal and state criminal law. In particular, the Wechsler Competition explores topics related to the Buffalo Criminal Law Center's various research and reform projects. This year Shannon Elwell '08, Christina Cassillo '07, Lauren Charles '08 and Kevin Habberfield '08 will represent UB.

Handling competitions based in international law is UB's **Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Board**. During the 2005-2006 academic year, teams from UB competed in the Jessup New York Regional with success. In a field of over 60 competitors, Jennifer Mucha '07 was ranked 13th best oralist and UB's brief was ranked second. This year's regional team will